

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-39 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 13, 14, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 39 stand rejected and claims 9-12, 15-20, 23-26, 29-31, 34, 35, and 38 are objected to. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims Objected To Which Would Be Allowable If Rewritten

The Examiner states that claims 9-12, 15-20, 23-26, 29-31, 34, 35, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended dependent claims 9, 23, and 34 to include the limitations of the corresponding independent claim, as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, claims originally depending from the rejected independent claims have been amended to depend from the presently amended dependent claims, respectively, which are now written in independent form and believed to be allowable. Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-8, 10-20, 22, 24-31, 33, and 35-38 are also allowable as depending from allowable base claims, respectively.

Additionally, although not explicitly objected to by the Examiner, applicant notes that independent claims 21, 32 and 39 should also be allowable if amended to included the limitation added with respect to claims 9, 23, and 34. Accordingly, applicant submits that these independent claims and claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Closing Remarks

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the

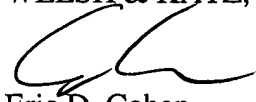
Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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